

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting
Robinson Nature Center - Columbia, MD
June 8, 2017
7pm-9pm

Attendees

Mark Southerland	ESB
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Cathy Hudson	Citizen
Ned Tillman	Citizen
Chris Tsien	ESB
Ann Strozyk	ESB
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Carolyn Parsa	Citizen
Bob Marietta	HCC
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Tom Paxton	ESB
Tim Lattimer	Citizen
Bill Mahoney	OCS
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Amy Gowan	DPZ
Ed Wilson	ESB
Valdis Lazdins	DPZ
Matt Hoover	OCS

Summary

7:06 PM – The Meeting was started by Mark. Everyone gave their name and what their affiliation is with Howard County.

7:15 PM – Valdis Lazdins was introduced and he gave information regarding the re-write of development regulations and the public meetings meant to influence those regulations. During the public meetings DPZ found that people interpreted regulations differently depending on their perspective and because of the nature of legal writing. They received concern of making the code easier to understand. Don Elliott, from Clarion, gave background of redevelopment to DPZ and encouraged a county re-write of zoning regulations. Clarion is assisting Howard County with the rewrite of the development regulations. They have served in PG County and worked with the city of Indianapolis. In Indianapolis, they worked on sustainable communities. Val stated that code is never static and development is continuing as codes are being written or re-written. The goal is to have new development fit into existing development.

Re-write of development regulations outline

Phase I

- 1) Document review
- 2) Outreach & public engagement
 - a. Online survey and additional interviews
 - i. Group comments sorted by classification or focus area
 - b. Emerging issues and tradeoffs public meeting
 - i. Inform and educate stakeholders and citizens of emerging practices
- 3) Diagnosis and annotated outline draft
- 4) Expected to be completed by late winter

Phase II

- 1) RFP to be released after the conclusion of Phase I

Timeline

March – Stakeholder interviews and public meeting

March to May – Online survey and additional interviews

Summer 2017 – Emerging issues and tradeoffs public meetings

Fall – 2017 Diagnosis and annotated outline drafts

Winter 2018 – Presentation of draft and public meetings

The Ellicott City Master Plan was brought up. The first part is to determine what happens in a storm and the second part is how to plan and develop for it. A community meeting will be held in July.

The Long Reach Village Center Master Plan was presented by Amy Gowan. The plan was developed by Orchard Development Team. Three different development teams were interviewed and Orchard was chosen to create the plan. The action plan consists of strategies and the strength and weaknesses of the development. Some of the highlights of the Village Center are a food incubator, 132 living units, 52 townhomes for sale, child care, and a dog park. The Columbia Art Center will remain at the Village Center. The goal of the transit hub plan is to have a bike hub and connection with various pathways. The Village Center will be energy positive. The goal of the plan is to include amenities the community could use. Sustainability was part of the plan imagination and the goal is to make the Long Reach Village Center a statewide model. The plan is going to the planning board on 06/19/17 to be considered by the council. Community meetings will be held once the plan is approved.

8:25 PM – Tom Paxton gave a presentation regarding a possible connection between lower tick/Lyme disease prevalence associated with larger Bob White quail populations. He displayed maps that showed that where quail live there is a low percentage of Lyme disease and where there is no quail habitat there is a higher percentage of Lyme disease. His goal is to complete research to determine if quails eat ticks. He believes that there is a high enough correlation to have a study completed. The University of Delaware is going to complete a study. Long Island has been releasing quail into the environment and they report a decline in the tick population.

Bob White Quails are not an expensive bird to purchase. Quail are an easy bird to raise but are hard to keep around. They eat about 200lbs of insects in the first 8 weeks of life. Many places are afraid to release quail into the environment because of the threat of disease. We are not allowed to release quail in the state of Maryland and there is currently no research being completed in the state either. Tom plans to do testing of his own next summer.

8:45 PM – Mark advised the Bird Building Collision group had their third meeting. Beth Decker gave a presentation on strategies for reducing bird strikes. They are finalizing a fact sheet that they will bring to the board in the fall.

The ESB is going to skip the July and August meetings. They will have a retreat in September which will be held at the Howard County Conservancy and it will be hosted by Ann. Paul Lin was recognized for his time served as the student rep on the board and given a commendation.

Cathy advised that legislation regarding mulching was coming up in July that was dealing with composting. Bob announced that National Sustainability Day was going to be on October 18 and if you want a table, get in touch with him.

8:50 PM – Director's Report was given by Jim. Roving Radish is selling 300 kits a week and vegetarian meals were a third of the request. Hoco farms.com is launching soon. A farm visioning study is going to take place which is going to survey farmers first. They are looking at creating HoCo grown sticker.

The Energy Manager was put in the Office of Community Sustainability budget and Jim gave credit to the Energy Task Force report in assisting with that.

GIN (Green Infrastructure Network) – Bill is working with Water Words that Work for creating educational boards. Cameras were purchased to give out to groups to help monitor the Green Infrastructure Network via a citizen science approach.

Howard County was unable to get the DNR grant for Patrick Farm so instead we are getting a low interest loan through the MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment).

The Planning Specialist I first round of interviews were completed and the 2nd round is going to be completed soon.

Ellicott City – McCormick Taylor developed a two-dimensional model of the watershed streams. They identified water detention projects with a goal of controlling a 100 year storm to release water at the 10 year storm flow, but this will not completely eliminate flooding. Implementing all the identified projects will cost about 85 million and take 10 to 20 years to complete.

9:00 PM - Meeting Adjourned